

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:
  - a) a message store for storing multimedia messages; and
  - b) a plurality of data converters for converting messages in one medium to messages in another medium, wherein the conversion of messages is based upon a set of user-definable parameters, said set of user-definable parameters including priority and summarization rules.
2. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein said plurality of data converters includes at least two selected from the group consisting of a text to speech converter, a speech to text converter, and a fax to text converter.
3. (Original) A system according to claim 1 further comprising means for linguistically based searching of multiple message types and for linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.
4. (Original) A system according to claim 1 further comprising means for assigning a reference number to each message.
5. (Currently Amended) A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:
  - a) a message store for storing multimedia messages; and
  - b) a plurality of data converters for converting messages in one medium to messages in another medium, wherein the conversion of messages is based upon a set of user-definable parameters, said set of user-definable parameters including priority and summarization rules; and

- c) means for linguistically based searching of multiple message types. and for linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.
- 6. (Canceled)
- 7. (Currently Amended) A multimedia mailbox system, comprising:
  - a) a message store for storing multimedia messages;
  - b) a plurality of data converters for converting messages in one medium to messages in another medium;
  - c) means for linguistically based searching of multiple message types and for linguistically relating multiple messages of different type; and
  - d) means for assigning a reference number to each message, wherein the conversion of messages is based upon a set of user-definable parameters, said set of user-definable parameters including priority and summarization rules.
- 8. (Original) A system according to claim 7 wherein said plurality of data converters includes at least two selected from the group consisting of a text to speech converter, a speech to text converter, and a fax to text converter.
- 9. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a multimedia mailbox, comprising the steps of:
  - a) storing messages of different types in a single mailbox; and
  - b) automatically converting messages from one medium to another, wherein the conversion of messages is based upon a set of user-definable parameters, said set of user-definable parameters including priority and summarization rules.
- 10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein said step of converting includes at least-two selected from the group consisting of converting text to speech, converting speech to text, and converting fax to text.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of linguistically searching multiple message types and linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of assigning a reference number to each message.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a multimedia mailbox, comprising the steps of:

- a) storing messages of different types in a single mailbox; and
- b) automatically converting messages from one medium to another, wherein the conversion of messages is based upon a set of user-definable parameters, said set of user-definable parameters including priority and summarization rules;
- c) linguistically searching multiple message types and linguistically relating multiple messages of different type.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a multimedia mailbox, comprising the steps of:

- a) storing messages of different types in a single mailbox;
- b) automatically converting messages from one medium to another;
- c) linguistically searching multiple message types and linguistically relating multiple messages of different type; and
- d) assigning a reference number to each message, wherein the conversion of messages is based upon a set of user-definable parameters, said set of user-definable parameters including priority and summarization rules.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15 wherein said step of converting includes at least two selected from the group consisting of converting text to speech, converting speech to text, and converting fax to text.
17. (New) A system according to claim 1 wherein said set of user-definable parameters includes sender information.
18. (New) A system according to claim 5 wherein said set of user-definable parameters includes sender information.
19. (New) A system according to claim 7 wherein said set of user-definable parameters includes sender information.
20. (New) A method according to claim 9 wherein said set of user-definable parameters includes sender information.
21. (New) A method according to claim 13 wherein said set of user-definable parameters includes sender information.
22. (New) A method according to claim 15 wherein said set of user-definable parameters includes sender information.